

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 17, line 28 to page 18, line 19:

In sum, the HUA can assist people in hooking up with other people, in various business and social meetings and activities, and can achieve all of the decision-making, planning, and commitment activities asynchronously, thereby advantageously avoiding or otherwise entirely eliminating the need for people to communicate synchronously in advance to schedule participation/attendance in a desired event/activity. This has the great advantage of allowing people to effectively dispatch their desires to the HUA in somewhat a “fire-and-forget” mode. Once the HUA receives the request, the user who made the request need not be bothered again until some exceptional circumstance occurs or the time has arrived to remind, notify, or alert the user of the scheduled event/activity. The user can specify whether the HUA must obtain final confirmation on its scheduled events or whether, having received and tentatively satisfied some request, it may proceed to commit the tentatively scheduled event on behalf of the user. Thus, the HUA is able to offload the user’s tasks of communicating with each of a plurality of participants and with each of a plurality of providers of the resources and/or services required for the intended event/activity. This goes way beyond eliminating simple “phone tag” problems. In other words, the HUA enables the user to “make a wish” (i.e., make an event happen) and walk away. The HUA then takes necessary and appropriate actions to “make the wish a reality,” i.e., contacting all other parties involved, determining mutually agreeable dates, times, resources, and services, and so on, and ensuring all parties involved can actually participate in the event at the earliest, most convenient time and place with available resources and/or services necessary to realize the event. With the help of the HUA, the user’s tasks are substantially reduced/minimized, leaving him simply to observe and adhere to his calendar and be financially and legally responsible for any event-related resource/service consumption.